

Please plan to join us for
Emory University Center for Ethics Monthly Clinical Ethics Seminars

The Reconfiguration of Privacy and Confidentiality in the Age of the Electronic Medical Record

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WellStar Health System

May 25
4:00 to 5:00 PM
Center for Ethics, Seminar Room (162)
1531 Dickey Drive, Emory University Campus

Please RSVP at ethics@emory.edu

While cutting edge and innovative new medical treatments or technologies often receive considerable ethical analysis and attention, it is also vital to attend to the often profound moral effects of ordinary technologies that play an integral role in the everyday practice of healthcare. This presentation will consider how the increasingly ordinary technology of the electronic medical record introduces novel challenges to the way we maintain and promote patient privacy and confidentiality amidst the delivery of healthcare in the 21st century. While security threats to electronic medical records have received considerable attention, this presentation will instead focus on the ways in which traditional notions of doctor-patient confidentiality are stretched and strained by the fact that the electronic medical record grants increasingly large numbers of healthcare providers unprecedented access to organized and searchable patient health information. How then should we proceed going forward? Should we simply accept that the meanings of privacy and confidentiality are reconfigured and altered in the age of the electronic medical record? Or, should a sufficiently robust commitment to privacy and confidentiality exert additional pressure on how we design and utilize the electronic medical record?

The Center's Clinical Ethics Seminars are held monthly on the 4th Thursday of every month (except November and December, which will be the 3rd Thursday).

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